

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199
(406) 542-4300 Telefax (406) 542-4217



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
TELEFAX: (406) 444-2684

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2007

October 24, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners
214 S. 4th Street, Suite A
County Courthouse
Hamilton, MT 59840-2703

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Ravalli County Commissioners:

Please find enclosed a geographic place/name proposal that is currently before the U. S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). This proposal pertains to a mountain in Ravalli County and would assign that feature the name Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain, which is an Anglicization of Chief Victor's Salish name, meaning Many Horses. Currently, that feature may be locally referred to as Squaw Peak.

This proposal was submitted by representatives of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. As you may already be aware, in 1999 the Montana Legislature passed HB 412, which established an advisory group to identify and develop names to replace existing geographic feature names that contain the word "squaw". In 2007, the Montana Association of Counties passed a resolution supportive of the effort to replace this word on geographic features at all levels of government in Montana.

I plan to provide a response to the BGN in November 2007 and would like to include your comments to assist them in determining approval/non-approval of this proposal. Should you decide not to support this proposed name change, I strongly suggest that you submit an alternative name for this feature through the BGN process (http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/name_form.htm). There are some rules to what names can and can not be submitted and that information can be found at (http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf).

Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lowell Whitney".

Lowell Whitney
Montana Geographic Names Advisor
MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Phone: (406) 542-4256

Travers, Sue

From: Roger L Payne [rpayne@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 7:40 PM
To: Louis A Yost; Jane A Messenger; Kenneth B Fox; Jennifer E Runyon
Cc: bbewley@blm.gov; Chick Fagan; bkanalley@fs.fed.us; Whitney, Lowell
Subject: Fw: GNIS-WEB-FORM-Whe-lha-kleh-tseen-Mountain

--- Forwarded by Roger L Payne/GIO/USGS/DOI on 07/17/2007 09:39 PM -----

james@cskt.org

To:

cc:

07/09/2007 03:46 PM

Subject: GNIS-WEB-FORM-Whe-lha-kleh-tseen-Mountain

Proposed feature name: Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain
 State or equivalent where feature is located: Montana
 Is feature located in other states?: no
 County where feature is located: Ravalli
 City, Town, Township where feature is located:
 Administrative Area where feature is located: US Forest Service (Bitterroot NF)
 Action requested: Name or Spelling Change

Why does feature need a name?:

Now called Squaw Peak. In 1999 Montana enacted House Bill 412 to replace all such offensive and derogatory placenames.

Feature type: Mountain
 GNIS feature?: Unknown

Feature description:
 About 10 miles east of Victor, MT, a peak on the west side of the Sapphire Range.

Name information:
 Located in the heart of the traditional homeland of the Salish. The nearest town is Victor, named for the esteemed Salish head chief who in 1855 signed the Hellgate Treaty with U.S. officials. Whe-lha-kleh-tseen is an anglicization of Chief Victor's Salish name, meaning Many Horses.

Feature elevation: 6666

Location or center of feature:
 Latitude: 46.26.04 N
 Longitude: 113.53.03 W

Source of feature
 Latitude:
 Longitude:

Maps and other published sources using name:

7/31/2007

Other names used for feature:

Is proposed name in local usage?: No
 Is there local opposition or conflict
 regarding the proposed name: No

Additional information:

Organizations or individuals which support proposed name:

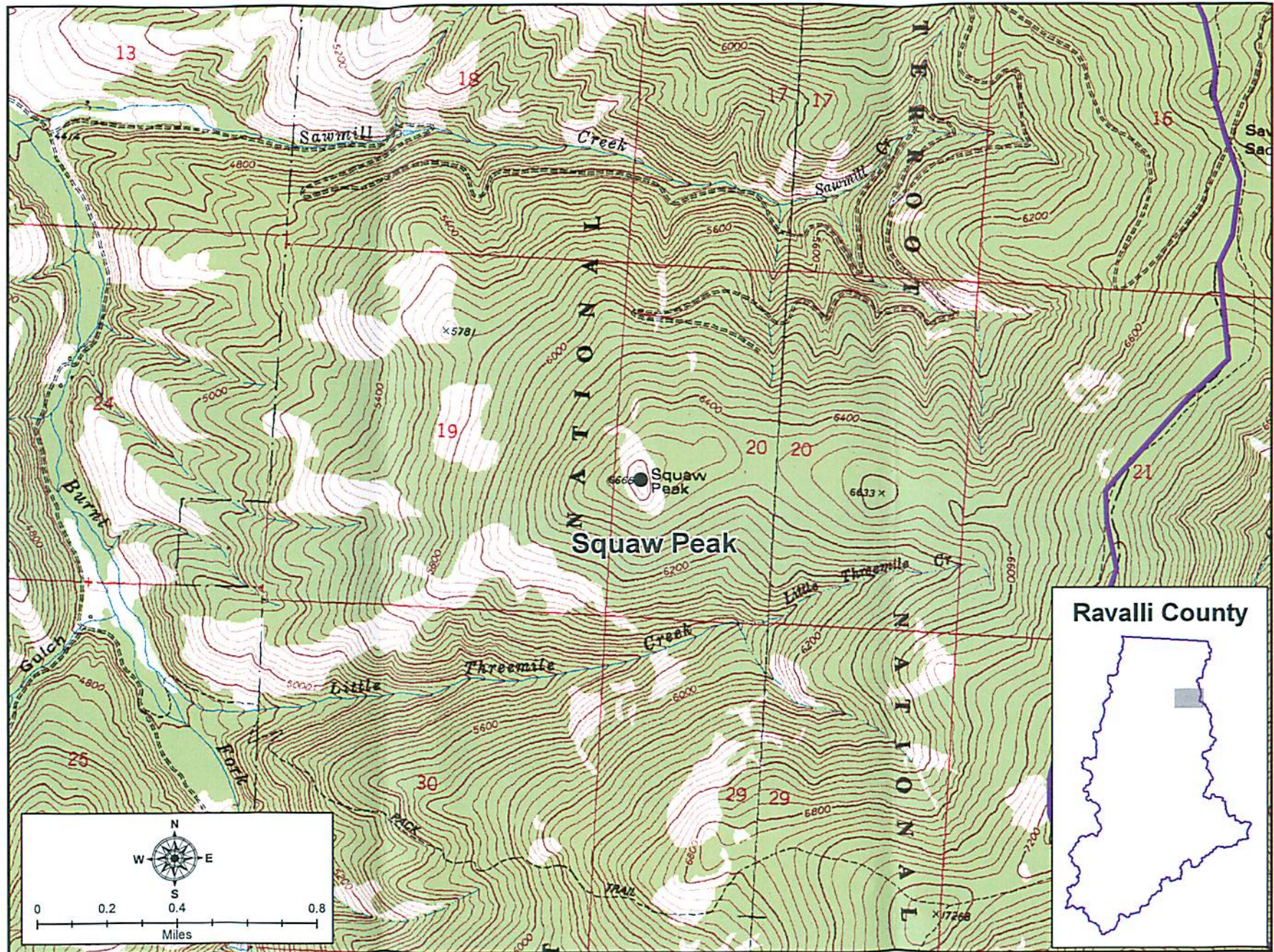
Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,
 P.O. Box 117, Pablo, MT 59855, 406-675-2700. Governing
 body of tribal government of Flathead Indian Reservation.
 In area for millennia. Montana House Bill 412 Advisory
 Committee, Sen. Carol Juneau, Chair, PO Box 200500,
 Helena, MT 59620, 406-338-5689, csjuneau@3rivers.net.
 Sen. Juneau is from Browning, MT and represents a district
 that encompasses the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. She
 is a past president of Blackfeet Community College.
 As member of the Montana House, she was a sponsor of
 HB 412, which mandated replacing all placenames containing
 the word "squaw." American Indian Caucus of the
 Montana state legislature, PO Box 200400, Helena, MT
 59620, 406-444-1634, fax 406-444-4362. Comprised of
 Senators and Representatives from six of Montana's seven
 reservations, including the Blackfeet Reservation (Sen.
 Carol Juneau and Rep. Shannon Augare), the Crow Reservation
 (Sen. Gerald Pease and Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman),
 the Fort Peck Reservation (Sen. Frank Smith and Rep.
 Margaret Campbell), the Northern Cheyenne Reservation
 (Rep. Norma Bixby), the Flathead Reservation (Rep. Joey
 Jayne), and the Rocky Boy Reservation (Rep. Jonathan
 Windy Boy), as well as Rep. Douglas Cordier of Columbia
 Falls.

Proposed By Name: James Steele, Jr.
 Street: PO Box 117
 City, State and Zip: Pablo, MT 59855
 Email: jamesst@cskt.org
 Telephone: 406-275-2700
 Fax Number: 406-275-2806
 Title: Chairman, Tribal Council
 Company or Agency: Confederated Salish & Kootenai

Submitted By Name: Thompson R. Smith
 Street: PO Box 550
 City, State and Zip: St. Ignatius, MT 59865
 Email: thompsons@cskt.org
 Telephone: 406-745-4572
 Fax Number: 406-745-4573
 Title: Consultant
 Company or Agency: Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture

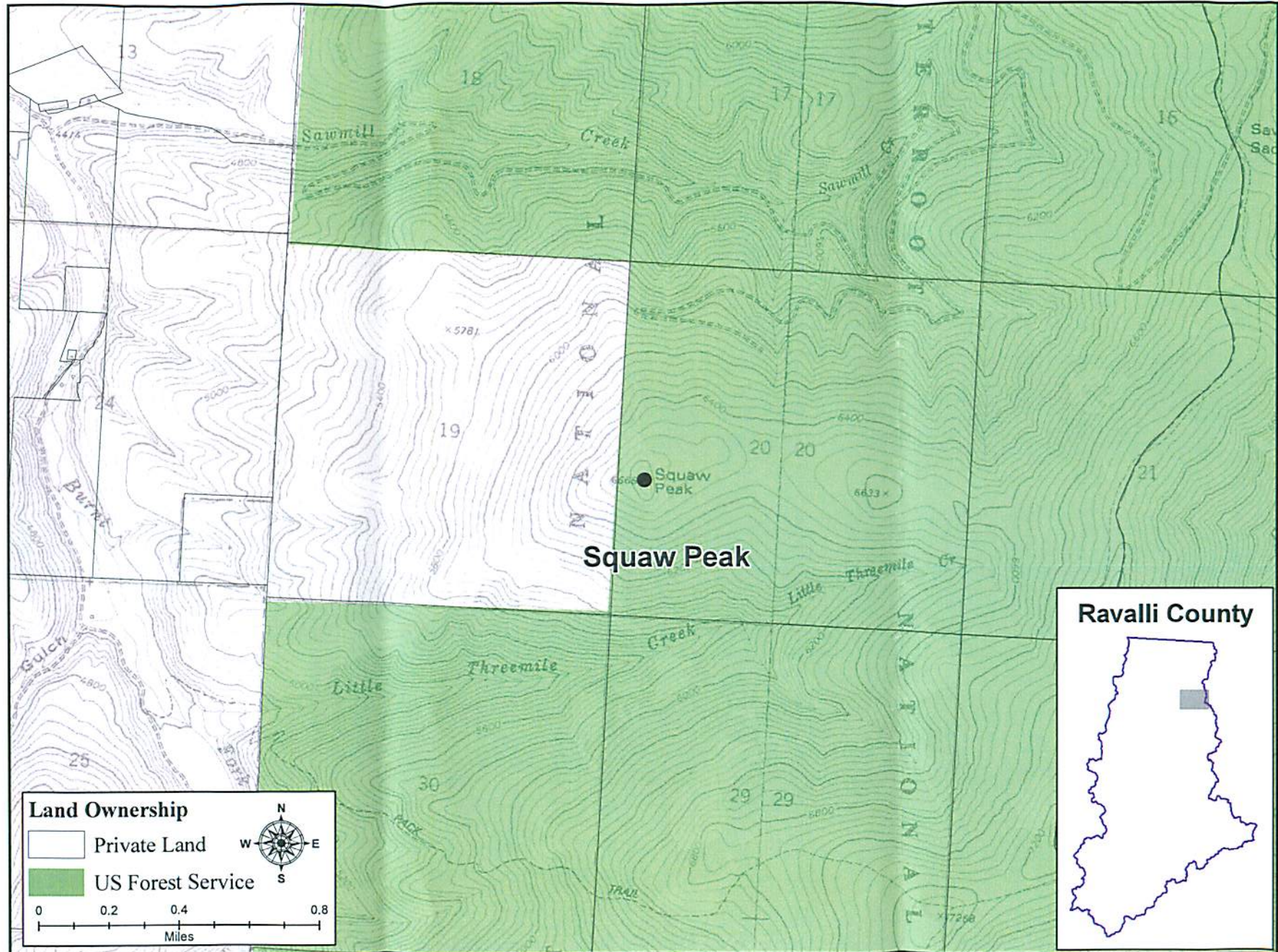
Do you have additional materials to submit?: Yes

Domestic Geographic Name Change Request
Change Squaw Peak (Ravalli County) to Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain



Domestic Geographic Name Change Request

Change Squaw Peak (Ravalli County) to Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain



**To: Lowell Whitney, Montana Geographic Names Advisor
DNRC
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804**

From: Ravalli County Commissioners

RE: Geographic Naming Proposal for Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain

Position on geographic naming proposal:

- ☐ **Not Opposed** to Name Proposal (documentation optional)
- ☐ **Opposed** to Name Proposal (please document)
- ☐ **Support** Name Proposal (please document)

Commissioner signatures:

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| Signature | Printed Name | Title | Date |
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